

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

May 28, 2003

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Wihby, Shea, Smith, Lopez

Messrs: R. MacKenzie, R. Johnson, Alderman DeVries

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Discussion and actions relating to the FY2004 CIP resolution:

“Amending a Resolution ‘Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2004, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program’.”

Mr. MacKenzie stated we have a one-page sheet of recommendations that should have been handed out.

Chairman O'Neil asked do you want to just run through it.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes. On this particular sheet there have been a number of projects that the Board has talked about. Some of those worked out better going into a different CIP year. Let me just go over the first three items that would be changes to the FY04 CIP. Item 1 is a project grant that we were just made aware of recently that we would be receiving from the state. We did want to add that into the FY04 CIP. That is Alcohol & Drug Prevention and Recovery under the Office of Youth Services. Again, there is no City match or anything. It is a \$40,000 grant. Item 2 is we are recommending that there be \$10,000 for the Families in Transition Transitional Housing Operations and that would come out of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. That is not cash and that is not HUD money. Item 3 we are recommending \$600,000 in the FY04 budget for the Clem Lemire Sports Complex. That is money that we could put in there because the Rines Center, which was \$600,000, we paid for with bond balances last month. Now we can switch that money, the capacity, over to be used for the Clem Lemire Complex. Item 4 is actually a change to the FY02 and FY03 CIP budgets. That is adding \$80,000 to the School Site Improvements Program. In total, monies for the

Clem Lemire project would total \$1.27 million, which is roughly half of Phase I. Phase I is actually the main phase of improvement. Item 5, the Board may remember that several months ago, in fact over a year ago during the Welfare crisis the Board had to tap into funds for the Highway Department that they used for chronic drain and other drainage improvements. The Board did delete at that time \$50,000. So we have identified a balance of funds. The revaluation project did not need all of the funds that were allocated and we are recommending that that amount of money be utilized for storm drainage improvements - \$55,000 added to what was identified. Item 6 there are six projects that we have reviewed this week that are older CIP cash projects that we are recommending be closed out. The total is just under \$25,000. We are recommending that the Boys & Girls Program...the amount allocated this year was roughly \$10,000 less than last year's allocation so we are recommending that we use some of those cash balances to bring the total back up to \$25,000 where it was last year. Taking out that money leaves a balance of \$14,773.46 and at this point those funds are not earmarked towards any project. I know the Chairman did speak with me this afternoon about their meeting on graffiti and he felt that there has to be some money allocated towards that.

Chairman O'Neil stated there isn't a plan yet but several of the departments have started meeting regarding the serious graffiti issue in the City of Manchester. I saw some pictures today that Ron Johnson had related to parks alone. It was citywide and very detailed. We have a major issue out there. The Police have actually arrested people over the past few months but it continues to go on. Mailboxes, traffic control boxes, many municipal buildings...I know I saw a Parks truck that got hit over by Gill Stadium at one point. We are probably going to have to address that somehow in the next few months. Staff at Parks, Highway, and Youth Services have been meeting. I think Police has been involved. They are going to try and come back with some kind of recommendation. We may have to include Mr. Robidas in those discussions. We have a major issue going on and it is throughout the City. My suggestion would be that we hold on to that \$14,000 until staff comes back with a recommendation on how to at least start addressing that. I think we will go to Alderman Wihby first.

Alderman Wihby asked, Bob, when you added the \$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Club it says making it \$35,000. Is that supposed to be \$25,000?

Mr. MacKenzie answered in essence since that was old cash monies the best way for us to handle it logistically was to add it to their FY03 budget. They did have \$25,000 and their program next year is \$15,000. Logistically it is better to add it into FY03. The net will be the same.

Alderman Lopez stated I want to clarify in my own mind...I am looking at the paperwork that we received recently. Where in here is the \$100,000 for the South Manchester rail and the cemetery for \$200,000? Should we go by the packet that you gave us before?

Mr. MacKenzie responded that one does not change. That was in the first package that was presented and the Board did expedite those projects.

Alderman Wihby moved to amend the FY04 CIP resolution as outlined by the Planning Director. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Chairman O'Neil stated I have a question or comment for Parks. I received a phone call and I don't know if Alderman DeVries or Alderman Garrity have regarding scheduling at Clem Lemire. I hope the intent is not to displace the football teams there this fall and that we work around them until they are out of there. Is that the intent of Parks?

Mr. Ron Johnson stated I know after our last public meeting regarding the project itself...we also have the plans here tonight if you want to take a closer look at those...that issue was discussed. I did talk to the consultant. He said that there is a possibility that we can incorporate that into the bid package. What they recommended to do is if we look at holding off on that particular area until the middle of November it could jeopardize the project on the other end, especially if we have a winter like we had this year where a lot of construction didn't happen. What he recommended to do was to have both options in the bid. It will escalate the prices and we can evaluate that. I think holding off as long as possible is our goal.

Chairman O'Neil asked but can't they start some of the work that doesn't affect the need for the football teams to be moved. I mean they must be able to start some work down there that doesn't affect relocating any teams.

Mr. Johnson answered right. I think they can start on some of the site work and the parking lot area. The question the contractor had was liability. They could probably do some grinding work of the existing track but then having physical education or football teams out in that area could become a liability issue. The contractor might have to put in some additional construction control fences and that is where you might get some escalated costs.

Chairman O'Neil stated it shouldn't drive the cost of the project up that much.

Mr. Johnson responded what they recommended to do was put those options in the bid package and then we can evaluate that.

Chairman O'Neil stated one other thing I am aware of had to do with goal posts. South Sabres just invested quite a bit of money in goal posts. Is there an intent to reuse those?

Mr. Johnson answered the goal posts that they put in were single posts that are really primarily used for football. I think the plan...since this is going to be a multi-use field they were recommending a different style that would allow you to put a soccer goal underneath the football goal post. We can evaluate that, I think, as we get into the design.

Chairman O'Neil asked could those possibly be used for what might be the second or third phase to the north eventually. I know on the plan I saw there was talk about possibly creating another rectangular field on the north side.

Mr. Johnson answered yes we could use them on another practice field.

Chairman O'Neil stated I guess there issue was they must spent X number of thousands of dollars and they are a non-profit and it takes a long time to raise that kind of money. So that will be addressed?

Mr. Johnson responded yes. We can put them on the practice field and we do have a need at other fields too for football goal posts.

Alderman Shea stated I think that many of these issues were discussed at the meeting, weren't they Ron and I think the football coach raised certain issues that I thought would be handled by him and by your department. Am I incorrect?

Mr. Johnson responded you are right. I think we did talk about the possibility of looking at displacement if that happens and if we can accommodate them on the field. I know that both the high school and South Sabres would prefer to stay right there. We would hope that everyone would try to work with us so we can accommodate everyone and meet the schedule of trying to get the field ready for September 1, 2004.

Alderman Shea replied my understanding was that they could practice there for a limited amount of time I thought and maybe during the last part of the football program they would have to move to some other field for practice.

Mr. Johnson stated again we haven't got into the full design but that is a possibility. We will try to do everything we can to keep everyone right there on that field.

Alderman DeVries stated, Ron, maybe you can tell me. The \$1.27 million...your expectations on what you will accomplish with that. That will give us the new track and there is a parking facility that is going to be built?

Mr. Johnson responded that is correct.

Alderman DeVries asked so all of that is still in the package and there have been no changes since our last discussion.

Mr. Johnson answered I think what was presented at the public meeting at Memorial High School was looking at the two year commitment that had been proposed by Finance, which brings the total project up to \$2.5 million. I think what would happen is we would put the project out to bid for the whole package and then have a clause in the bid which would allow us to go forward with the contract at \$1.2 million and then include the other portions...it would be the field, the track would be rebuilt...pretty much what you had seen at that meeting. We will do the site work, the rough grading for the new parking lot off of South Jewett Street. We will look at the grandstands and get the pier supports in for the grandstands and miscellaneous site work like fencing and some of the utilities.

Alderman DeVries asked so there are no major reductions in what was previously presented to us.

Mr. Johnson answered no there is not.

Chairman O'Neil asked and the School Board has approved this, correct.

Mr. Johnson answered that is correct. We presented it to several of their committees – the Building & Sites Committee and then it went to the full School Board also.

Alderman Lopez asked when you say the proposals for...are you getting two proposals. One if they begin early and one if they begin late?

Mr. Johnson answered no. What we would do in the contract is have an alternate that once we get into the design if we need to designate an area for non-access for the contractor we would ask him for a price. There will probably be some associated construction fencing that they would have to put up to make sure that the high school students or the public do not go into the areas where they are actually working. We will identify that in the package and have that as a number.

Alderman Lopez stated I had an individual call me regarding the scheduling. The only thing I want to know is are there other places they can play in the City if the cost is going to increase because they won't move or we won't move them?

Mr. Johnson responded we have looked at a couple of park areas. The City Athletic Director has actually contacted Ron Ludwig recently about that. We have Highland Goffes Falls that could accommodate football and there is a possibility of moving other sport venues around like having field hockey or soccer moved to another area and having football go to a certain park. St. Anthony's is another possibility and maybe the McLaughlin/Green Acres Complex. There are fields down there.

Alderman Lopez stated I instructed the person to call you and Ron Johnson. Have you been sitting down with these people and trying to work things out?

Mr. Johnson responded we have had some calls. I think a lot of them are coming into the City Athletic Director because they are the ones who actually schedule Memorial High School so we are going to work with them to designate the fields.

Alderman Lopez stated I think at some point you should have a roundtable discussion so we don't all get calls on it. We have to rely on your expertise as to what is going to develop over there along with the School Department.

Chairman O'Neil stated, Ron, I just feel very strongly that the price is not going to be affected that greatly by the contractor having to work maybe two or three weeks around the football schedule. Memorial High School will be done for sure the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and my guess is that Pop Warner is done around that same time. I hate to see those kids displaced because we are trying to make up a week or two. The contractor should know that in their bid and we should put penalties if they don't meet the timelines. We shouldn't inconvenience the kids of this City to make it easier for the contractor. I hate to see them get displaced for a couple of weeks to try to meet a timeline. That is just my personal opinion.

Chairman O'Neil called for a motion to amend the FY2004 CIP resolution. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee